

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 081455Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6214

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0568

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR SHELTON

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING

REF STATE 028626

I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN OVER THE REPORTS OF "ARBITRARY ARREST, MURDER AND EVEN ASSASSINATION" WHICH YOU HEARD IN PANAMA. WERE THESE TRUE I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WOULD GRAVELY SHARE YOUR CONCERN AND WOULD REPORT THEM IMMEDIATELY. ALL OF THE ELEMENTS OF THIS EMBASSY ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE NECESSITY TO BE ALERT TO THIS SITUATION AT ALL TIMES. I AM IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH EVERY ELEMENT OF THE EMBASSY AND THE EMBASSY IS IN TOUCH WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF NICARAGUAN SOCIETY, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND OPPOSITION, AND WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE OF ANY RESORT TO MURDER OR ASSASSINATION. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, ONLY A FEW PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECTED FSLN ACTIVITIES. EVEN THE NON-CASTROIST OPPOSITION, INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS, HAVE MADE NO CHARGES SUCH AS THOSE YOU HEARD IN PANAMA. WE ARE KEENLY AWARE HERE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN STATEMENTS IN THE PANAMANIAN PRESS AND ON THE COSTA RICAN RADIO WHICH HAVE PICTURED NICARAGUA IN A STATE OF "NEAR CIVIL WAR" WITH THE "BORDERS CLOSED" AND A GENERAL PICTURE OF TURMOIL, REPRESSION AND CONFUSION. IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OF THESE ALLEGATIONS.

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IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ODUBER IN

HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA ON FEBRUARY 6  
EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AND CHAGRIN OVER THESE IRRESPONSIBLE  
STATEMENTS BEING MADE IN COSTA RICA AND PROMISED SOMOZA  
THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING HE POSSIBLY COULD TO REDUCE THE  
FLOW OF SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS. AS YOU KNOW, SINCE THE  
DECEMBER 27 TERRORIST ATTACK, NICARAGUA HAS BEEN IN A "STATE  
OF SEIGE." THE APPLICATION OF THIS STATE OF SIEGE HAS BEEN  
LIMITED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO CENSORSHIP AND THE USE OF MILITARY  
COURTS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. WE DO NOT KNOW OF ANYONE  
WHO HAS BEEN DENIED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT SINCE THE DECEMBER 27  
INCIDENT. IN GENERAL, WHILE THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY  
SOME ABERRATIONS, THERE ARE NO MAJOR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA. A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE DEGREE  
OF OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS HERE WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN SEPTEL.  
SHELTON

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NNN

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